

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 21, 2001

LB 772

benefit less than \$200 per month. That's probably about...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what I'm going to get from Social Security, and I think it's terrible. Another employee with 24-plus years of service retired at less than \$600 a month. So these are facts that cannot be escaped. Conditions exist for our employees which to my mind are unconscionable. We have the wherewithal to correct these deficiencies. I think we have an ethical and maybe even a moral obligation to make these changes. The workman, as says the word, is worthy of his hire. Muzzle not the ox that treadeth out the corn. When the ox is treading the corn, you don't put a muzzle on it. You let the ox eat because it takes energy to do that work. Our employees...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are not oxen. We should not treat them as such.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on the motion offered by Senator Chambers to return LB 772 from Final Reading to Select File for a specific amendment. Those wishing to speak to that motion are Senators Coordsen, Bourne, Wickersham, Bruning, Kristensen, and Stuhr. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Only briefly I think at this point in time and that is that, when we spoke to this issue for a limited amount of time several weeks ago, there were questions that came up with respect to actuarial studies and what the cost of implementation might be. The actuarial study, of course, that was done on the bill was done on the bill as it originally was introduced which included "at-will" employees for the executive branch. And there was not much of an interest on that side of the aisle so those employees were taken out of the bill in a future rewrite. What I have here now then is actually two sets of figures, one from our own Fiscal Office dated May 17. They are anticipating in the first year \$116,000 for administrative costs for setting